

Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

Date: February 5, 2008

Agenda Item No. 1(D)3

To: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and
Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess,
County Manager

Subject: Sunset Review of County Boards for 2008 – Miami-Dade County
Commission for Women

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2-11.40 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, I am transmitting the 2008 Sunset Review of County Boards Report for the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women. The Board approved the attached report at its meeting of November 28, 2007, and has recommended the continuation of its Board.



Susanne M. Torriente
Assistant County Manager

cmo07008


Date: January 7, 2008
To: George M. Burgess, County Manager
From: Joan Sampieri
Chairperson, Miami-Dade County Commission for Women
Subject: Sunset Review of County Boards for 2008 – Miami-Dade County Commission for Women

Pursuant to Section 2-11.40 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, I am submitting the 2008 Sunset Review of County Boards Report for the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women for transmittal to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The Board approved the attached report at its meeting of November 28, 2007.

It is recommended that the BCC approve the continuation of the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women.

BACKGROUND

1. The Miami-Dade County Commission for Women was created in 1971.
2. The purpose of the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women is to serve in an advisory capacity to the County Commission, the County administration, the community, and all agencies and persons in Miami-Dade County, Florida, in respect to all matters pertaining to the status of women, as detailed in its enabling ordinance.
3. The Miami-Dade County Commission for Women should continue to function because it is diligently carrying out its mission. The Commission for Women dutifully meets on a regular basis, serves as an advocate for women in the community and holds events and activities for women, all as detailed in its annual reports and sunset review reports.



Joan Sampieri

**SUNSET REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARDS
2008**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **Name of Board reporting:** Miami-Dade County Commission for Women
2. **Indicate number of board members, terms of office, and number of vacancies:**

26 Members, 4 year term of office; 5 vacancies

3. **Identify number of meetings and members' attendance (Attach Records reflecting activity from Jan. 1 2006 through December 31, 2007):**

Twenty meetings were held on 01/25/06, 02/22/06, 03/22/06, 04/26/06, 05/24/06, 06/28/06, 07/26/06, 09/27/06, 10/25/06, 11/29/06, 01/24/07, 02/28/07, 03/28/07, 04/25/07, 05/23/07, 06/27/07, 07/25/07, 09/26/07, 10/23/07 and 11/28/07

The number of meetings with quorum were 15

Attendance Records: See attachment.

4. **What is the source of your funding?**
County General Funds
5. **Date of Board Creation:** January 19, 1971
6. **Attach a copy of the ordinance creating the Board (please include all subsequent amendments). See attachment.**
7. **Include the Board's Mission Statement or state its purpose:**

Mission Statement: To serve in an advisory capacity to the County Commission, the County administration, the Community, and all agencies and persons in Miami-Dade County, Florida in respect to all matters pertaining to the status of women.

8. **Attach the Board's standard operating procedures, if any. None.**
9. **Attach a copy of the Board's By-Laws, if any. See attachment.**
10. **Attach a copy of the Board minutes approving the Sunset Review Questionnaire, including a vote of the membership. See attachment.**

II EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 1. Is the board serving the purpose for which it was created? (Please provide detailed information).**

Yes. It is meeting on a regular basis, advising the County Commission and County Administration on women's issues, assisting women in the community, advocating for laws that help and empower women and providing programs and events for women in the community.

- 2. Is the Board serving current community needs? (Please provide detailed information).**

Yes. It is assisting women in the community, advocating for women and holding programs and special events for women.

- 3. What are the Board's major accomplishments?**

a. Last 24 months: For 2006, see attached annual report. For 2007: co-sponsored the "In the Company of Women" awards reception on 03/07/07; publication of the 2007-2008 Connections Directory of women's organizations; held the annual Connections Networking Reception on 11/08/07; selected the winning design for the Julia Tuttle Statue and raised \$200,000 for the statue project; co-hosted the Miami Women's Summit on 05/12/07; held the regular March 2007 meeting at The Women's Park and the October 2007 meeting at Miami Gardens City Hall to bring the meetings closer to the community; and active committees worked on different issues and projects.

b. Since established: See attachment

- 4. Is there any other board, either public or private, which would better serve the function of this board? No**

- 5. Should the ordinance creating the Board be amended to better enable the Board to serve the purpose for which it was created? (If "yes," attach proposed changes) No.**

- 6. Should the Board's membership requirements be modified? No.**

- 7. What is the operating cost of the Board, both direct and indirect (Report on FY 2006 and FY 2007)?**

Fiscal Year 2006 - \$7, 712 direct; \$43,358.95 indirect
Fiscal Year 2007 - \$7, 712 direct; \$45,641.00 indirect

- 8. Describe the board's performance measures developed to determine**

effectiveness in achieving its stated goals.

The performance measures are that the Commission for Women is diligently meeting on a monthly basis, communicating with the County Commission on issues, and holding programs and activities for women in the Community. Also, specific activities completed by the Commission for Women are highlighted in the Office of Community Advocacy Active Strategy Enterprise (ASE) scorecard as Initiatives under the objective "Improved Community Relations in Miami-Dade County."

Also: Include a diskette, saved as ASCII or Rich Text Format (RTF), of the County Manager's transmittal memorandum to the Board of County Commissioners with the Board's recommendations

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

2006 ATTENDANCE

P~ Present A~Absent E~Excused

BOARD MEMBERS NAMES	01/25/06	02/22/06	03/22/06	04/26/06	05/24/06	06/28/06	07/26/06	09/27/06	10/25/06	11/29/06
Magali Abad	P	E	P	E	E	E	E	E	P	E
Barbara Buxton	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	E	P	E
Heui Young Choi	E	P	E	P	E	E	E			
Elena de Jongh	E	E	E	E	A	E	E			
Mikele Aboitiz Earle	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	E	P
Carmen Elias- Levenson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
Norvell Holyfield	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	E	
*Sandra Hudson				P	E	P	E	P	P	P
Bess McElroy	P	P								
Anita McGruder	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	E	E	E
Rosa Naccarato Grace O'Donnell	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P
Barbara Perez	E	E	P	E	P	E	E	E	P	E
Barbara Perez	P	P	E	E	P	P	E	A		
Geri Rocker	P	E	E	P	P	P	E	P	E	P
Maria Roberts	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P

NO MEETINGS ARE HELD IN AUGUST AND DECEMBER

* = NEW MEMBER

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

2006 ATTENDANCE

P~ Present A~Absent E~Excluded

BOARD MEMBERS NAMES	01/25/06	02/22/06	03/22/06	04/26/06	05/24/06	06/28/06	07/26/06	09/27/06	10/25/06	11/29/06
*Marianne Salazar		P	P	E	E	P	E	A	P	A
Joan Sampieri	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Barbara Schwartz	P	P	E	E	E	A	E	P	P	P
Sandra Martin Seals	E	E	P	E	P	E	P	P	E	E
Diana Shinaberry	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P
Gloria Simmons	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	E
Regina Suarez	E	A	E	E	A	P	P	E	E	E
Leona Johnson Swilley	P	P	E	E	P	P	E	E	P	P
*Marsol Tamarazzo		P	E	P	E	P	P	A	A	P
Jennifer Tisthammer	A									
Bea Weaver	P	P	P	P	E	E	E	E	E	P
Paula Xanthopoulos	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P

NO MEETINGS ARE HELD IN AUGUST AND DECEMBER

* = NEW MEMBER

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
2007 ATTENDANCE
P~ Present A~Absent E~Excused

BOARD MEMBERS NAMES	01/24/07	02/28/07	03/28/07	04/25/07	05/23/07	06/27/07	07/25/07	09/26/07	10/23/07	11/28/07
Magali Abad	P	E	E							
Barbara Buxton	E	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	E
Diane Cabrera	P	E	A	P	E	E				
Mikele Abotiz Earle	E	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	A
Carmen Elias- Levenson	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
Sandra Hudson	P	P	E	E	P	E	P	E	P	P
Anita McGruder	P	A	E	P	E	E	E	P	P	P
Rosa Naccarato	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Grace O'Donnell	P	E	P	E	P	E	E	E	P	P
Maria Roberts	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	E	P
Geri Rucker	E	E	P	P	E	E	P	P	E	P
Marianne Salazar	E	P	E	P	E	E	P	E	A	E
Joan Sampieri	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
*Nancy Schleifer						P	P	P	P	P
Barbara Schwartz	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P

NO MEETINGS ARE HELD IN AUGUST AND DECEMBER.
*~ New Member

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
2007 ATTENDANCE
P~ Present A~Absent E~Excused

BOARD MEMBERS NAMES	01/24/07	02/28/07	03/28/07	04/25/07	05/23/07	06/27/07	07/25/07	09/26/07	10/23/07	11/28/07
Sandra Martin Seals	E	E	E	A	E	P	P	E	P	E
Diana Shinaberry	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Gloria Simmons	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	E	E	E
Regina Suarez	P	A	E	P	E	P	P	P	E	E
Leona Johnson	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Swilley										
Marisol	E	E	E	E	E	P	E	E	P	E
Tamarazzo										
Bea Weaver	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	E	P
Paula										
Xanthopoulos	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P

NO MEETINGS ARE HELD IN AUGUST AND DECEMBER.
*~ New Member

ORDINANCE NO. -171-11

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE METROPOLITAN
DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF
WOMEN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY,
INCLUSION IN THE CODE AND EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the status of women in the community has long been ignored; and

WHEREAS, recently a President's Commission on the Status of Women and a Governor's Commission on the Status of Women have been established; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners desires to create a Commission on the Status of Women,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This ordinance enacted under and pursuant to the provisions of the Home Rule Charter of Government for Dade County, Florida, shall be known and may be cited as the "Metropolitan Dade County Commission on the Status of Women Ordinance."

Section 2. COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN. The Metropolitan Dade County Commission on the Status of Women is hereby created and established. The commission shall consist of twenty-seven members appointed by the County Commission.

Section 3. QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS. Members of the commission shall be permanent residents of Dade County. Members, while serving, shall not become candidates for election to any public office. In order to secure representative membership upon the board, each of the eight County Commissioners shall appoint three members to the commission and the Mayor shall appoint three members to the commission.

Section 4. TERMS OF OFFICE. In order that the terms of office of all members of the commission shall not expire at the same time, the initial appointments to the commission shall be as follows: The Mayor and the County Commissioners shall each appoint one member to the commission for a term of one (1) year, one member to the commission for a term of two (2) years, and one member to the commission for a term of three (3) years. The Chairman shall be elected by the members of the commission for a one (1) year term. Thereafter all appointments shall be made for a term of four (4) years. Appointments to fill any vacancy on the commission shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of office. A member may be removed without cause only by three-fourths vote of the entire membership of the County Commission. When any member of the commission fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without due cause, the chairman shall certify the same to the County Commission. Such member shall then be deemed to have been removed and a vacancy created.

Section 5. ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD. The members of the commission shall elect such officers other than a chairman as may be deemed necessary or desirable, who shall serve at the will of the commission. Fourteen (14) members of the commission shall constitute a quorum necessary to hold a meeting and take any action. Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties upon approval by the County Commission. The chairman may call meetings of the commission, and meetings may be called by written notice signed by fourteen (14) members and the commission at any meeting may fix and call a meeting on a future date. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings of the commission. All meetings shall be public.

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Section 6. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION. The commission shall have the following duties, functions, powers and responsibilities:

- (a) To serve in an advisory capacity to the County Commission, the County administration, the community, and all agencies and persons in Dade County, Florida, in respect to all matters pertaining to the status of women, including but not limited to discrimination against women, employment of women, education of women, establishment of day care centers in the community and attitudes towards women in the community, and to make periodic reports and recommendations to these bodies in respect to such matters.
- (b) To make a continuing study of all existing county institutions, facilities and services, and programs dealing with women or affecting women, and consider the future needs of this metropolitan area in respect to such institutions, facilities, services and programs.
- (c) To serve as liaison between the County Commission and the County administration, and consult with representatives of said bodies from time to time as requested and necessary in order to carry out the commission's duties and functions.
- (d) To make studies and have studies made of the problems of discrimination against women employees, increasing the availability of part-time employment for women, establishment of day care centers in the community, and attributable changes towards women in the community, and to formulate and recommend plans and programs for the coordination of the activities of all governmental entities and non-governmental agencies dealing with these problems.

(e) It is the express purpose of this commission to serve as a medium for responsible persons to utilize and consult with in attempting to understand and solve the many complex problems involved with dealing with the status of women, and to make findings and recommendations to the County Commission and the County administration regarding such matters as are presented to the commission.

(f) To perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to it by resolution of the County Commission.

Section 7. LIMITATION OF POWERS. The powers and jurisdiction of the commission shall be purely advisory, voluntary, and persuasive. The commission shall not have any power or authority to subpoena or compel the attendance of witnesses. The commission shall have no power to appoint county officers or employees or to make policy decisions, or to manage, control or administer institutions or programs relating to the status of women in Dade County.

Section 8. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 9: INCLUSION IN THE CODE. It is the intention of the County Commission, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Metropolitan Dade County, Florida; that the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention; and that the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section", "article", or other appropriate word.

Section. EFFECTIVE DATE. The provisions of this ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its enactment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED: January 19, 1971

ORDINANCE NO. 93-114

ORDINANCE RELATING TO MEMBERSHIP ON COUNTY BOARDS; AMENDING SECTIONS 2-11.38 AND 2-11.38.2 OF THE CODE OF METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING DEFINITION; PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP OF CERTAIN COUNTY BOARDS; PROVIDING FOR SUNSETTING OF CERTAIN COUNTY BOARDS; IMPOSING TERM LIMITATIONS; PROVIDING FOR GENDER BALANCE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; PROVIDING FOR FURTHER ORDINANCES AS NECESSARY; REPEALING ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HERewith; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE AND EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the County currently has in excess of 65 County boards comprising a membership of almost 1000 people; and

WHEREAS, County boards serve a valuable role in the development of County policies by providing input to this Board and County staff; and

WHEREAS, this Board believes it is necessary to modify the structure of County boards to make them more efficient and more reflective of the community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. "County board" is defined as the term is defined in Section 2-11.36.1 of the Code of Metropolitan Dade County.

Section 2. The number of members on the following boards shall be as follows as of the effective date of this ordinance:

Art in Public Places Trust (15)
Board of Rules and Appeals (19)

Children's Services Council (22)
Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (26)
Commission for the Advancement of the
Physically Handicapped (13)
Commission on the Status of Women (26)
Community Relations Board (26)
Construction Trades Qualifying Board (26)
Cultural Affairs Council (15)
Documentary Surtax Advisory Board (13)
Environmental Advisory Task Force (13)
Equal Opportunity Board (13)
Film, Print and Television Advisory Board (13)
Fire Prevention and Safety Appeals Board (13)
Health and Human Services Board (13)
Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board (13)
Historic Preservation Board (13)
Housing Finance Authority (13)
HUD Advisory Board (22)
Industrial Development Authority (13)
Minimum Housing Appeals Board (13)
Nuisance Abatement Board (13)
Overall Economic Development Program Committee (18)
Performance Commission (13)
Planning Advisory Board (13)
Shoreline Development Review Committee (13)
Unsafe Structures Board (13)
Zoning and Appeals Board (13)

Section 3. The following boards shall be abolished as of
the effective date of this ordinance:

Biscayne Bay Management Committee
Dade Beautification Advisory Board
Independent Commission on Inquiry on Hurricane Andrew
Personnel Advisory Board
Public Service Board
Solid Waste Management Citizens Task Force
Sports Advisory Council
Sunny Isles Review Committee
Towing Task Force
Tree and Forest Advisory Committee
Young Peoples Council

Section 4. The Ground Transportation and Regulatory
Advisory Committee shall remain in effect until February 28,
1994. By that date the committee shall have submitted its final
report and shall be abolished.

Section 5. The Finance Committee shall review the status of the Educational Facilities Authority and the Health Facilities Authority Council and shall report its findings and recommendations to this Board by January 1, 1994.

Section 6. The terms of all current members of County boards listed in Section 2 hereof shall terminate on November 17, 1993. Additionally, when the Commissioner who appointed a board member leaves office, the term of his or her appointees to County boards shall expire.

Section 7. Section 2-11.38 of the Code of Metropolitan Dade County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:¹

Sec. 2-11.38. Membership on boards.

* * *

The primary consideration in appointing board members shall be to provide the board with the needed technical, professional, financial, business or administrative expertise. The membership of each board should be representative of the community at large and should reflect the gender, racial, ethnic and cultural make-up of the community.

* * *

Section 8. Section 2-11.38.2 of the Code of Metropolitan Dade County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-11.38.2. Term of Office.

(a) The terms of office of the members of each board shall be staggered.

¹Words stricken through shall be deleted. Underscored words constitute the amendment proposed. Remaining provisions are now in effect and remain unchanged.

(b)(1) No board member shall serve more than eight (8) consecutive years on any one board. The provisions of this section shall not apply to current board members. Nothing set forth in this subsection above shall prohibit any individual from being reappointed to a County board after a hiatus of two (2) years. Members of advisory boards and fund allocating boards shall be limited to six (6) consecutive years of service on any one (1) board, provided, however, that any person currently serving on a County board shall be permitted to serve until the expiration of his or her term.

(2) Members of regulatory boards, quasi-judicial boards and administrative boards shall be limited to nine (9) consecutive years of service on any one (1) board, provided, however, that any person currently serving on a County board shall be permitted to serve until the expiration of his or her term.

(3) By a two-thirds vote of the members of the full Board of County Commissioners, the limitations of subsections (b)(1) and (b)(2) hereof may be waived.

(c) Nothing set forth in subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2) above shall prohibit any individual from being reappointed to a County board after a hiatus of two (2) years.

Section 9. The Clerk of the Board, in consultation with the County Attorney, shall make certain that the published version of the County Code reflects the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 10. The County Manager or the County Attorney are hereby directed to prepare any necessary additional ordinances relating to membership on specific boards.

Section 11. This ordinance shall supersede the provisions of ordinances relating to specific boards only with regard to the number of members on those boards and term limitations. In all

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other respects, the specific board ordinances shall govern until further action by the County Commission.

Section 12. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 13. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Metropolitan Dade County, Florida. The sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," or "article," or other appropriate word.

Section 14. This ordinance shall become effective November 1, 1993.

PASSED AND ADOPTED: OCT 21 1993

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Prepared by:

RAG
[Signature]

Veto _____

Agenda Item No. 4(H)
4-13-99

Override _____

ORDINANCE NO. 99.35

ORDINANCE CHANGING NAME OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE XXX, SECTIONS 2-264, 2-265 AND 2-269(f) OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Commission on the Status of Women has voted to change its name to Commission for Women because this new name better reflects the mission and work of the commission on the status of Women and because it is simpler and easier to remember; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, several others women's commissions around the country have similarly changed their names; and

WHEREAS, the national organization to which the Commission belongs is called the National Association of Commissions for Women,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Article XXX of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida is hereby amended to read as follows:¹

ARTICLE XXX. COMMISSION >>~~FOR~~ << ~~[[ON THE STATUS OF]]~~ WOMEN

¹ Words stricken through and/or ~~[[double bracketed]]~~ shall be deleted. Words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< constitute the amendment proposed. Remaining provisions are now in effect and remain unchanged.

Section 2. Section 2-264. of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-264. Short title.

This article enacted under and pursuant to the provisions of the Home Rule Charter of Government for >>Miami-<< Dade County, Florida, shall be known and may be cited as the ">>Miami-<< [[Metropolitan]] Dade County Commission >>for<< [[on the Status of]] Women Ordinance.

Section 3. Section 2-265 of the Code of Miami- Dade County, Florida, is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 2-265. Commission >>for<< [[on the Status of]] Women.

The >>Miami-<< [[Metropolitan]] Dade County Commission >>for<< [[on the Status of]] Women is hereby created and established.

* * *

Section 4. Section 2-269 of the Code of Miami- Dade County, Florida, is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 2-269. Duties and Powers of the Commission.

The Commission shall have the following duties, functions, powers and responsibilities:

* * *

(f) To establish the >>Miami-<< Dade County Commission >>for<< [[on the Status of]] Women Trust Fund (hereinafter referred to as "Trust Fund") in which will be placed all donations, contributions and funds received by the Commission >>for<< [[on the Status of]] Women. The funds placed into the Trust Fund shall be used only to fund conferences, projects and special events which further the purposes of the >>Miami-<< Dade County Commission >>for<< [[on the Status of]] Women.

* * *

Section 5. The Commission for Women remains the same County advisory board created by Ordinance 71-11, as codified in Article XXX of Chapter 2 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, as previously for all purposes and retains all powers and authority thereof unaffected by the change of name.

Section 6. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 7. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance, including any Sunset provision, shall become and be made a part of the Code of Metropolitan Dade County, Florida. The sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or other appropriate word.

Section 8. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of enactment unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

Section 9. This ordinance does not contain a sunset provision.

PASSED AND ADOPTED: APR 13 1999

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

RA6

BYLAWS
(Amended on June 23, 2004)

MIAMI -DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

ARTICLE I.

The name of this organization shall be the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women, hereinafter known as the Commission for Women, an organization originally established by the Board of County Commissioners by Ordinance No. 71-11 on January 19, 1971.

ARTICLE II.

Object

Section 1. The object of this association shall be to seek for every woman privilege equal to her potential and responsibility; to inspire in women desire for self-improvement and pride of being, regardless of race, color, creed or age; to encourage involvement of women in matters pertaining to community progress; to encourage women to recognize family environment as fundamental to preservation of our national culture and security; to work toward utilization of capable women in roles of leadership; and to work toward legislation granting women equality before the law.

Section 2. The Commission for Women shall have the following duties, functions, powers and responsibilities as established in the Miami -Dade County Ordinance No. 71-11:

a. To serve in an advisory capacity to the County Commission, the County administration, the community, and all agencies and persons in Miami-Dade County, Florida in respect to all matters pertaining to the status of women, including, but not limited to discrimination against women, employment of women, education of women, establishment of day care centers in the community, and attitudes toward women in the community, and to make periodic reports and recommendations to these bodies in respect to such matters.

b. To make a continuing study of all existing County institutions, facilities and services, and programs dealing with women or affecting women, and consider the future needs of this metropolitan area in respect to such institutions, facilities, services and programs.

c. To serve as liaison between the County Commission and the County administration, and consult with representatives of said bodies from time to time as requested and necessary in order to carry out the Commission's duties and functions.

d. To make studies and have studies made of the problem of discrimination against women employees, increasing the availability of part-time employment for women, establishment of day care centers in the community, and attributable changes toward women in the community, and to formulate and recommend plans and programs for the coordination of the activities of all governmental entities and non-governmental agencies dealing with these problems.

e. To serve expressly as a medium for responsible persons to utilize and consult with in attempting to understand and solve the many complex problems involved with dealing with the status of women, and to make findings and recommendations to the County Commission and the County administration regarding such matters as are presented to the Commission.

f. To perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to it by resolution of the County Commission.

g. To appear before any government entity or non-governmental agency to make recommendations and suggestions on behalf of the Commission and, with the approval and permission of the Board of County Commissioners, make suggestions and recommendations on behalf of Miami-Dade County and the Commission for Women to any and all such agencies.

h. To express in the name of the Commission for Women only those opinions which have received prior approval by vote of the majority of the members of the Commission.

ARTICLE III.

Members

Section 1. The membership of this organization shall consist of 26 members, all of whom shall be permanent residents of Miami- Dade County. To assure representative membership, each of the thirteen County Commissioners shall appoint two members. Appointment shall be for a period reflecting the term of office of the respective Miami- Dade County Commissioner making the appointment.

Section 2. Members, while serving, shall not become candidates for election to any public office.

Section 3. Each member shall serve on at least one Committee.

Section 4. It shall be the responsibility of each member to attend all meetings of the Commission for Women and Committee meetings of his or her primary assignments. If, in a given fiscal year, a member fails to attend two consecutive regular meetings or a total of three regular meetings without an acceptable excuse, the Chairperson shall certify the same to the Board of County Commissioners after the Executive Director has notified said member in

writing. An "acceptable excuse" is defined as an absence for medical reasons, business reasons, personal reasons, or any other reason which the board, by a two-thirds vote of the membership, deems appropriate. Such absence shall be calculated from October 1st until September 30th. The member shall then be deemed to have been removed and a vacancy created. No member shall be considered to have attended a meeting unless she/he has remained and participated at a regular meeting for no less than 75% of the time.

a. By a two-thirds vote of the members of the full Board of County Commissioners, the provisions of this section may be waived.

Section 5. Members may speak on behalf of the Commission for Women only with the express permission of the Chairperson or with the approval of the membership.

Section 6. Any member desiring to resign from the organization shall submit his or her resignation in writing to the appointing Commissioner, the Chairperson and the Executive Director.

ARTICLE IV.

Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Commission for Women shall be Chairperson, First Vice Chairperson, Second Vice Chairperson, and Member at Large. In addition, the immediate past Chair shall serve automatically as an officer of the Board.

Section 2. The First Vice Chairperson shall be of active assistance to the Chairperson and shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in his or her absence or inability to serve.

Section 3. At the regular meeting in April, the Nominating Committee's slate of officers will be presented and the Chair shall open the floor for nominations, starting with the office of Chairperson. Officers shall be elected by a voice vote if there is only one nominee and if more than one nominee by a simultaneous written ballot, signed by the member casting the ballot, to be made a part of the public record. Officers shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin following the close of the meeting at which they are elected. No vote by proxy shall be permitted. Election shall be by a majority of the votes cast by members present and voting.

Section 4. No member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. A member can serve again in the same office after two intervening years.

Section 5. A vacancy in the office of Chairperson shall be filled by the First Vice Chairperson and a vacancy in the office of First Vice Chairperson shall be filled by the Second Vice Chairperson. A vacancy in the office of Second Vice Chairperson shall be filled by the Member at Large. If the Member at Large is unable to serve, an election shall be held at the first

meeting following the vacancy.

Section 6. In addition to those duties prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the membership, the Chairperson shall assign members to each Committee with due consideration for the desire of the member and the need of the Committee; shall present all reports to the Board of County Commissioners; may designate a registered parliamentarian at his or her discretion; and shall serve as the only official representative and spokesperson for the Commission for Women.

ARTICLE V.

Meetings

Section 1. The regular meetings of the Commission for Women shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month unless otherwise ordered by the membership or by the Executive Committee. Meetings shall be at a time and place designated by the membership; and at least ten regular meetings shall be held during each calendar year.

Section 2. At the February meeting, a nominating committee shall be created consisting of the past Chairperson, if she accepts and is not going to run for office, two members appointed by the current Chairperson, and two members elected by the membership, to serve for a period of one year, to present the slate of officers for the April annual meeting. The slate of officers shall be mailed to the membership by the March meeting. A member of this nominating committee may not be on the slate of officers recommended by the committee, but may be nominated from the floor.

Section 3. The regular meeting in April shall be known as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving annual reports of Officers and Committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 4. Special meetings can be called by the Chairperson or by the Executive Committee and shall be called upon the written request of ten members. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in cases of emergency, at least three days notice shall be given.

Section 5. A quorum shall consist of a majority of those persons duly appointed to the Commission for Women.

ARTICLE VI.

The Executive Committee

Section 1. The officers of the Commission for Women shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the organization between its business meetings, make recommendations to the membership, and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these Bylaws. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of the Commission for Women, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the organization.

Section 3. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be no less than 10 times per year, at a time and place designated by the Chairperson.

ARTICLE VII.

Committees

Section 1. Committees shall have the responsibility for performing such duties as are necessary to accomplish the functions, powers and purpose of the Commission for Women as set forth in these Bylaws.

Section 2. Each Committee shall meet regularly upon the call of its Chair, and Committee meetings shall be announced and publicized.

Section 3. Comprehensive reports of Committee activities shall be provided in writing at the annual meeting and at such other times as they shall be requested by the Chairperson. Copies of reports shall be distributed with the minutes of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII.

Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

ARTICLE IX.

Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous meeting or has been mailed to the membership at least ten days prior to the meeting at which it will be considered.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite #660, Miami, FL 33128
Minutes of Meeting of November 28, 2007

Present: Carmen Elias-Levenson, Sandra Hudson, Anita McGruder, Rosa Naccarato, Grace O'Donnell, Maria Roberts, Gerri Rocker, Joan Sampieri, Nancy Schleifer, Barbara Schwartz, Diana Shinaberry, Leona Johnson Swilley, Bea Weaver, and Paula Xanthopoulou

Excused: Barbara Buxton, Sandra Martin Seals, Gloria Simmons, Regina Suarez, and Marisol Tamarazzo

Absent: Mikele Aboitiz Earle and Marianne Salazar

Staff: Laura Morilla

Guests: Yvonne McCormack-Lyons and Corky Dozier from the Women's International Film Festival

Chairwoman Joan Sampieri commenced the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Joan first asked if there were any changes to the meeting agenda. Rosa Naccarato requested that the matter of the 11th Judicial Circuit Historical Society be added under New Business. Barbara Schwartz then moved to approve the agenda as amended, and Paula Xanthopoulou seconded the motion. The motion passed and the agenda was approved.

Nancy Schleifer moved to approve the minutes of 10/23/07 and Rosa seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Next there was a presentation by Yvonne McCormack-Lyons and Corky Dozier of the Women's International Film Festival (WIFF). Yvonne, the Founder and Executive Director of WIFF, stated that 2008 will be WIFF's third year. WIFF presents films by women or about issues that bring women together. In 2007, WIFF showed 40 films in four days. WIFF is now in the process of reviewing and selecting the films that will be shown in 2008.

WIFF has a program called "Reel Girls, Reel Women" to teach girls about women in the media and the portrayal of women in the media. The program seeks to teach girls about the unrealistic images of women, especially physical appearance, and also to get the girls to do films of their own. Another of WIFF's goals is to get more women involved in the film industry.

Yvonne further mentioned that Rosario Kennedy, the former Miami City Commissioner, is the Chair for the 2008 film festival. Opening night will be March 28, 2008 at the Gusman Theater downtown. Gusman has 1200 seats and WIFF would like to bring together women leaders and elected officials to fill the seats. There will be a group sales component that will allow women's organizations to sell tickets and raise money for their causes.

Yvonne also announced that CFW member Anita McGruder has just joined the WIFF board of directors.

Corky announced that on December 31st, for the New Year's Eve festivities at Bayfront Park, the City and Host Committee will be raising an orange blossom and that there will be a commemoration of the contributions of women.

The criteria for a film to be accepted by WIFF is that it must be made by a woman as director, writer, or producer or, if made by a man, that it be about a woman.

Throughout December 2007, WIFF will be screening the films for the 2008 festival and will need volunteers to watch the films and help make the selections. WIFF is also having a reception on December 11th at 6 p.m. at Cielo Restaurant in Coconut Grove.

Yvonne and Corky stated that they want the CFW to specifically endorse the film festival and help spread the word about WIFF and about opening night to other women's organizations. Rosa moved that the CFW endorse WIFF and the film festival. Paula seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

For the report of the **Connections Committee**, Grace O'Donnell thanked everyone who helped with the reception. Grace stated that she thought that it was one of the best receptions ever, and Paula agreed. A very special thanks goes to Macy's for the donation of the \$10 gift cards for the guests and the \$500 gift card for the raffle. Laura also provided the CFW members with a summaries of the reception expenses and the revenues.

For the report of the **Julia Tuttle Statue Committee**, Carmen and Laura reported that basically we are still waiting to confirm that the following monies have been transferred into the special trust fund for the project- the \$55,000 from the City's Art in Public Places program and the \$5,000 from Commissioner Dorrin Rolle.

For the report of the **Legislative Committee**, Rosa explained that she and Laura had a chance to talk to Rep. David Rivera about the ERA at the Miami-Dade Days kick-off reception last week. Representative Rivera, who is the Chair of the House Rules Committee, listened but was non-committal. Rosa has also spoken to Rep. Dan Gelber about the ERA and she is making progress with the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) about getting the PBA's endorsement of the ERA. Barbara Schwartz mentioned that she was able to secure an appointment with Fred Frost of the AFL-CIO at the end of January 2008 to discuss support for the ERA.

Paula stated that the CFW needs to decide what to do with these endorsements. The CFW needs to do more than just get these endorsements on paper. There is a lot of horsetrading and political gamesmanship going on the CFW needs to get in on the action. The CFW needs to get groups like the PBA and the AFL-CIO to use their lobbyists to actively lobby for the ERA, beyond just doing a letter.

The Committee will meet again and come back with more recommendations.

Maria provided a written report of the **Sexual Assault Issues Committee** and discussed it.

There was no report for the **Low Wage Women's Issues Committee**.

For the report of the **Girls' Issues Committee**, Rosa reminded everyone of the upcoming GAP holiday party for the girls in the Juvenile Detention Center.

As far as activating the **Goals Committee**, Joan explained that the Executive Committee would like to adopt the 2007 goals as the 2008 goals and be more vigilant about keeping track periodically that the CFW is indeed following the goals. The CFW agreed.

Under **Old Business**, Joan reminded everyone to turn in their completed OCR Board Survey.

Under **New Business**, Laura explained the Sunset Review Report that must be submitted every two years to the County Commission. Rosa moved to approve the Sunset Review Report and Paula seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Sunset Review Report was approved by the Commission for Women.

Next, Joan reminded everyone about the CFW holiday wine tasting gathering on December 3rd and the Office of Community Advocacy's holiday party on December 19th.

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Rosa then talked about a potential project with the 11th Judicial Circuit Historical Society, which was formed within the last year. The Historical Society, founded by Judge Scott Silverman, is starting to archive Miami's judicial history. Rosa suggested to Judge Silverman that the women judges listed in the *Julia's Daughters* books be recognized and honored at a presentation. It would be a joint event by the CFW and the Historical Society. The CFW members liked the idea. Rosa moved that the CFW do the event. Bea seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

There were several Announcements. Carmen mentioned her new website for greeting cards for step-families. Nancy announced the Voices for Children bike drive for needy children. Maria announced that the Florida Senate committee on families is considering a change to the Florida law that bans adoption by gays and lesbians, and that the committee is having a public hearing on Monday. She urged all to attend the public hearing and make comments.

The issue of the next CFW "on the road" meeting will be on the agenda for the January meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Laura Morilla
Recorder

ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Joan Sampleri, Chairwoman
Carmen Elias-Levenson, CPA, 1st Vice Chair
Paula Xanthopoulou, 2nd Vice Chair
Anita McGruder, Member at Large
Rosa Naccarato, Immediate Past Chair

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Barbara Buxton, Esq.
Mikele Aboltiz Earle
Sandra Hudson
Major Grace M. O'Donnell
Maria E. Roberts
Gerri Rocker
Marianne Salazar, Esq.
Nancy Schleifer
Barbara Schwartz
Sandra Martin Seals
Diana Shinaberry
Gloria Simmons
Regina Suarez
Leona Johnson Swilley
Marisol Tamarazzo
Bea Weaver, Ed. D.

COMMISSION STAFF

Larry D. Capp, Ph.D., Executive Director
Office of Community Relations
Laura Morilla, Director/Program Officer II
Commission for Women
Christina Spitzer-Taylor, Community Relations Assistant
Carrol (Faye) Vermont, Executive Secretary

Miami-Dade County Commission for Women
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Annual Report to the Board of County Commissioners

By: Joan Sampieri, Chairwoman
Miami-Dade County Commission for Women
January 1, 2006-December 31, 2006

The Commission for Women thanks the Board of County Commissioners for its continued support of our work on behalf of the women in the community. Our success and accomplishments could not have been possible all these years without the backing of Miami-Dade County's elected officials and administration.

INTRODUCTION

The Miami-Dade County Commission for Women is pleased to submit its Annual Report for January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006 to the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to Miami-Dade County Ordinance 71-11, which created the Commission for Women. Attached to this report are materials highlighting our activities for the past year. Also attached are the list of Committees and the agendas for the meetings held in 2006 to provide you with an idea of the issues and projects addressed by the Commission for Women in 2006.

The Commission for Women was created in 1971, as the Dade County Commission on the Status of Women, to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of County Commissioners, the County Administration, the community and all agencies and persons in Miami-Dade County with respect to all matters pertaining to the status of women. The Commission for Women acts as a clearinghouse for information and services available for women, as a referral network, as a sounding board for women in this County, and as a catalyst for new solutions to address the problems facing women in this community. A copy of the ordinance creating the Commission for Women is attached. On April 13, 1999, the Board of County Commissioners passed an ordinance changing the name of the "Commission on the Status of Women" to the "Commission for Women." A copy of that ordinance is also attached.

ACTIVITIES AND ADVOCACY

The Equal Rights Amendment and other Legislation

The Commission for Women continued its strong advocacy for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in 2006. ERA ratification bills were filed in the Florida Legislature in the 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 legislative sessions. Members and staff of the Commission for Women met with several legislators to enlist their support for ratification of the ERA by the Florida Legislature, and participated in a coordinated statewide advocacy effort with other organizations. The Commission for Women also made a presentation at the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation

public hearing on December 18, 2006, to advocate for support for the ERA. The Commission for Women will continue its advocacy for the ERA in 2007 when the ERA ratification bill is expected to be filed again.

The Commission for Women has also established a mentoring relationship with the students at the F.I.U. Women's Studies Program with regard to getting them involved in public affairs and community issues. Students have attended Commission for Women meetings, and the Commission for Women has encouraged these students, through films, workshops and activities, to be more active in legislative matters. As part of this partnership with F.I.U., the Commission for Women's Executive Director videotaped an online lesson about the ERA for use in classes at F.I.U.

In addition to the ERA, the Commission for Women advocated for various other bills of special interest to women through letter writing campaigns, networking with other women's organizations, and meetings with legislators.

Women's History Month/Women's History

In observance of Women's History Month, the Commission for Women co-sponsored the annual "In the Company of Women" awards reception with the Miami-Dade Parks Department on March 8, 2006. The reception was held at Vizcaya Museum and Gardens and was very well attended. The Chairwoman of the Commission for Women also served as a panelist on the selection committee that determined the award winners. Many current and past members of the Commission for Women have also been recipients of this prestigious award.

Commission for Women members and staff also made presentations to community groups during Women's History Month.

NACW

The Commission for Women is a member of the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) and continues to work with NACW on various projects.

Local Women's Commissions

There are five women's commissions in Miami-Dade County. In addition to the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women, women's commissions were established by the following cities: Miami, Miami Beach, South Miami, and North Miami Beach. The Commission for Women maintains a productive working relationship with these local women's commissions and joins with them on issues and projects as needed.

Advocacy for Sexual Assault Survivors

Since 2004, the Commission for Women has made it a priority to improve the quality of services provided to victims of sexual assault. The Commission for Women joined with other community groups to persuade Jackson Memorial Hospital to open a Rape Treatment Center (RTC) at Jackson South in order to facilitate treatment for sexual assault victims in South Dade. The Rape Treatment Center at Jackson South finally opened in the Fall of 2004, and the Commission for Women has continued to work with other groups in 2005 and 2006 to monitor services and staffing at the RTC South.

The Commission for Women has also been concerned about the services provided at the main RTC located at Jackson Memorial Hospital. So, at its meeting of February 22, 2006, the Commission for Women heard from Larry Handfield, the Chair of the Public Health Trust, and from JMH administration about the operations of the RTC. The Commission for Women shared its concerns and its recommendations for a better RTC. After this meeting, the Commission for Women continued its advocacy for better services through correspondence and by participating in follow-up meetings with staff from Jackson Memorial Hospital. Also throughout 2006, the Commission for Women participated in regular meetings with the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade and the We Care Coalition to monitor services provided at the main RTC and to develop better procedures and services.

Television Programs

The Commission for Women had the opportunity to host three television programs on Cable TAP's community access channel, along with the other advisory boards in the Office of Community Relations. The three shows hosted by the Commission for Women aired in April and May 2006, and the topics discussed were domestic violence, employment discrimination, and the work of the Commission for Women in general. The shows were hosted by Commission for Women members and featured several experts as guests.

International Visitor Program

The International Visitor Program of the U.S. State Department and the Council on International Visitors often call on the Commission for Women to organize meetings with visiting foreign women to brief them on issues affecting women and other topics of interest to the foreign visitors. Over the years, the Commission for Women has exchanged ideas and strategies with dozens of visiting women, many of whom are dignitaries in their countries. In 2006, the Commission for Women continued to host these international visitors as requested.

Emergency Contraception Public Education Campaign

In early 2006 the Commission for Women joined the South Florida Coalition to Promote Emergency Contraception, which includes organizations such as the Women's Emergency Network, Planned Parenthood, and the University of Miami. As part of the Coalition, the Commission for Women participated in a public education/awareness campaign about the availability of emergency contraception (EC). The purpose of this public outreach effort was to improve awareness of and access to EC and thereby reduce the rates of unwanted pregnancy and abortion.

The Coalition first conducted a survey of pharmacies in Miami-Dade County to determine the ease of access and the barriers to EC. Then, with the help of the Commission for Women, the results of the survey were distributed to physicians as an insert to the magazine of the Dade County Medical Association. Brochures regarding the availability and proper use of EC were created and then distributed to health clinics, service providers and community groups.

In the Fall of 2006, during this public education campaign, the Food and Drug Administration approved the over-the-counter sales of emergency contraception to women 18 and older. The focus of the public outreach now is to make women aware that EC is available without a prescription. Working with the Coalition in 2007, the Commission for Women will continue to work on this public education campaign.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk

On October 7, 2006, a team from the Commission for Women participated in the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" Walk.

Julia Tuttle Statue

In 2004 the Commission for Women voted to support the Julia Tuttle Statue project and join forces with the City of Miami Commission on the Status of Women (Miami COSW). There is no public memorial or tribute to Julia Tuttle, the founder of Miami, other than the Julia Tuttle Causeway. The idea of erecting a statue in her honor was first raised in 1996 during the centennial of the City of Miami, but the project initially stalled. Since 2004 the Commission for Women, working with the Miami COSW, has made great progress on this project.

In early 2006, the Related Group officially donated the site for the statue along the Riverwalk in downtown Miami. A national "call to artists" competition was held throughout the Summer and Fall of 2006 seeking designs for the statue. The Project Oversight Committee, which is headed by the Commission for

Women, also began its fundraising campaign and media outreach efforts. The winning design will be selected in early 2007 and fundraising will continue throughout 2007.

Countywide Commission for Women Meetings

In 2006, the Commission for Women decided to hold some of its monthly meetings around Miami-Dade County in different venues. The Commission for Women believes that it is important to reach out to all residents of Miami-Dade County and make its meetings more accessible to the public. This also helps the Commission for Women learn about the concerns of women from all over the County and educates the public about the work of the Commission for Women.

The first of these "on the road" meetings was held at Homestead City Hall on October 25, 2006. The next one will be held on March 28, 2007, at the Women's Park.

Speakers Bureau and Public Education About the Work of the CFW

In addition to presentations during Women's History Month, members and staff routinely speak before community organizations about the mission and work of the Commission for Women. Requests for presentations are made year-round from groups such as the Rotary Clubs and Zonta Clubs, and the Commission for Women uses these opportunities to educate the public about its activities and about the important issues facing women in general.

Connections Directory

The Commission for Women's annual "Connections" Directory of all women's organizations in Miami-Dade County was published in November 2006. The 2006-2007 Connections Directory lists over 200 women's organizations with names, addresses, telephone numbers and general information. It is the biggest and most comprehensive Directory ever and is in high demand from elected officials, women's groups, and individuals around Miami-Dade County. The Directory has become a key networking tool for many in the community.

35th Anniversary Reception

Created in 1971, the Commission for Women observed its 35th anniversary with a reception on November 16, 2006. The reception was held at the Grand Bay Hotel in Coconut Grove and was very well attended. The guest speaker was Marie Wilson, the president of The White House Project, a national organization that promotes women in public leadership roles and elective office. Reception

attendees were inspired by her dynamic remarks about how women can and should become more involved in public service.

Women's Survey

In 2006, as part of its 35th anniversary activities, the Commission for Women conducted a "Women's Community Survey" to learn about the issues and priorities that matter most to women in Miami-Dade County. The survey was distributed to hundreds of women at meetings, via mailings and via e-mail. The top issues of concern to women as revealed by their responses were: 1. Housing; 2 Healthcare; 3. Education; 4. Pay Equity; and 5. Poverty. The Commission for Women will use these survey responses to plan its priorities for the coming years.

Women's Summit 2007

In the Fall of 2006 the Commission for Women began to plan the Miami Women's Summit, to be held on May 12, 2007. The Commission for Women, along with the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade and the Dade County Federation of Women's Clubs, is a presenting sponsor of the Miami Women's Summit 2007. The Summit will bring together women from across racial, cultural, and generational lines to forge a common agenda to improve the lives of women and girls. The goal is to create an action plan that will impact public policy and improve the status of women and girls in our community in three areas: Violence Against Women; Economic Empowerment; and Women in Public Leadership.

Commission for Women members and staff participated in several planning meetings in 2006 to secure a venue, develop the topics and identify potential speakers.

Administrative Activities

Finally, the Commission's staff conducts the administrative and day-to-day activities of the Commission for Women. The staff is responsible for preparing and mailing all correspondence for the Commission; preparing the agenda for the Commission meetings; attending Commission monthly meetings, as well as taking the meeting minutes; attending the meetings of the Commission's various committees and carrying out the directives of those committees; revising and annually publishing the Connections Directory; implementing the decisions made by the Commission; attending community meetings on behalf of the Commission; and organizing all aspects of the Commission's events and activities. The Commission office receives numerous telephone calls daily from women requesting information and assistance on a variety of issues such as domestic

violence and discrimination. The Commission office also provides statistics and other information upon request for persons preparing reports or special projects.

CONCLUSION

The Commission for Women is planning a productive year 2007, and attached is a schedule of our year 2007 meetings. Please do not hesitate to call upon us for assistance with issues of concern to you.

The Miami-Dade County Commission for Women Serves the Women in **Our Community** in Many Ways

SUPPORTING AND ADVOCATING FOR IMPORTANT LEGISLATION SUCH AS:

- the County Contraceptive Equity Resolution in 2001
- the Domestic Violence Leave Ordinance in 1999;
- the Living Wage Ordinance in 1999;
- Revision 9 to the Florida Constitution in 1998;
- the Gender Pricing Ordinance in 1997;
- the Family Leave Ordinance in 1991;
- the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); and
- the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

SPONSORING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES SUCH AS:

- Women's healthcare conferences and workshops.
- Workshops on domestic violence, women in business, women and finances, political empowerment, and other issues of concern to women.
- Display of the "Silent Witness Initiative" Figures for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1999.
- Serving on important committees such as the County Manager's Advisory Committee on Women's Issues and the Women's History Curriculum Advisory Committee of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.
- Hosting television programs on WLRN Cable Tap, and making media appearances to discuss a variety of topics of interest to women.
- Collaborating on different projects with the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Labor Department, the White House Office of Women's Initiatives, the National Association of Commissions for Women, and the Florida Commission on the Status of Women.
- Hosting the 1996 convention of the National Association of Commission for Women in Miami Beach.
- Publication of the annual "Connections" Directory of local women's organizations and hosting the annual networking reception.
- Hosting foreign women dignitaries through the U.S. International Visitor Program.

- Participation of Commission members and staff as speakers at workshops, conferences, Women's History Month events, and diversity day programs.
- Co-sponsoring the annual "In the Company of Women" awards for Women's History Month.
- Obtained funding for the opening of a Domestic Violence Intake Unit in the Miami Beach Branch Courthouse.
- Advocating for the rights of the women asylum seekers detained by federal immigration authorities at the TGK County jail.
- Support of the Girls Advocacy Project (GAP) to improve conditions for girls incarcerated in the Juvenile Detention Center.
- Collaborating on the "Casa Valentina" project for girls aging out of foster care.
- Working towards the creation of a Julia Tuttle statue in Miami.
- Advocating for the rights of victims of human trafficking.
- Advocating for the improvement of services for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.
- Participating as a member of the Miami Emergency Contraception Coalition to increase awareness of the availability of emergency contraception.
- Co-presenting the Miami Women's Summit 2007.